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These and such small questions as that of abbreviations—when to use them and when not—are evidently the mint and anise and cummin of scholarship, but they count in the impression of a book. Abbreviations sometimes cause more of a jolt to attention than the space they save is worth. The use of them calls for a certain uniformity of condensation. Forms like *adjs.*, *partics.* (i. e. participles, not particles); *plu.*, *subj.*, *subjunc.* are well enough in their place, but one of them looks a trifle queer in a sentence of colloquial amplitude with all the other words printed in full.

Detached expressions like "the acc. of thing with the pass." (note, line 829) seem to illustrate the danger to which we of the pedagogical tribe are more or less exposed, of developing a class-room argot that is more quaint than beautiful.

Putas, in the note to line 823, is a misprint for *petas*.

But in general, as might be inferred from the fact that the foregoing mild animadversions have mostly to do with matters of form, the commentary is substantially good. Certainly a student should have a pleasant and profitable time with this book, the addition of which to the group of school editions of the Catiline will, it is to be hoped, encourage the reading of the text, which has so much declined in this country in recent years.

COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK ALLAN P. BALL

Latin Lessons for Beginners. By Daniel W. Lothman. Boston: Ginn & Co. (1908). Pp. XII + 178.

This book owes its origin to the belief of its author and of other teachers that "better results would be secured from the study of Latin in secondary schools by a more extensive and more intelligent use of the grammar"; and that "by making its use compulsory in the first year, the 'grammar habit' is established early, and a broadened use of the grammar in succeeding years is secured". The author states that the book stood the test of a two years' trial in his own classroom before being put in final form.

The book, then, is a reversion to a type of beginners' book seldom seen in recent years, in that it requires a grammar to be used with it. It professes to be equally well adapted to any one of three grammars—the Allen and Greenough, the Bennett, and the Harkness. It was inevitable that there should be some slight difficulty of adjustment, since the grammars differ from one another in treatment of their subject-matter, and especially in terminology. Bennett, for example, calls a 'termination' that which the other two grammars call a 'case-ending'. Our author prefers 'termination'. He employs the useful term 'base' to denote the part of a noun or adjective which is unchanged in

declension, though the word appears not to be used in this sense by Bennett or Harkness. Mostly, however, he avoids the use of terms not pretty thoroughly established in usage. He leaves to the teacher the task of impressing on the student the characteristic nomenclature of the grammar in his hands. Such expressions as 'volitive subjunctive' and 'contingent condition' are found, in general, only in foot-notes.

The arrangement of the book is fairly systematic, much more so, at least, than that of most books in present use. After an outline of English Grammar, which seems to be a necessity in first-year Latin books nowadays, and an introductory lesson, we have alternately an inflection lesson and a lesson presenting one or two points of syntax. The development of inflection follows closely the order in the grammars, except that the verb is put in from the very beginning, and conjugation advances side by side with declension. The subjunctive mood is introduced in Lesson LIII, declension, comparison, numerals, and pronouns, as well as the indicative, infinitives, and participles of regular verbs, having been disposed of in the previous lessons. All inflections, regular and irregular, and the most important principles of syntax are covered in eighty-six lessons, twelve of which are review lessons. There follow Book I of the Gallic War, simplified and condensed to about one third, and the Life of Hannibal.

The matter preceding the simplified Caesar is contained in one hundred and three pages. If the outline of English Grammar be counted out, this is reduced to ninety-one. The omission of paradigms accounts in part for this brevity, but even with allowance made for the omission, the condensation is very noticeable. Brevity is a virtue which may be carried too far. There is no connected reading matter in Latin accompanying the eighty-six lessons, and by actual counting of lines it is found that the Latin sentences to be translated into English amount to only about seventeen pages. In spite of the author's successful experience, this seems inadequate, for the average class, as preparation for the reading of the Caesar selections. These, though simplified, are not particularly simple. Some difficulties remain, even in the earlier parts; and later, the long *oratio obliqua* of Chapter XXXI is not sufficiently changed, either by omissions or by simplification, to be very easy for beginners. In practice, most teachers will probably find it advisable to give their classes considerable easy reading from other sources, if they expect them to show reasonable facility when they come to these selections.

The execution of the book is scholarly. There are many praiseworthy features, and few things to be criticized. The explanations are clear, concise, and generally accurate. The vocabulary of the

lessons leads directly to Caesar. The sentences to be translated into Latin are made simple, as they should be. The frequent systematic reviews are most admirably constructed. The few paragraphs on English derivatives and Latin word-formation are noteworthy for their simplicity and clearness. The learning of the suffixes given, with their significance, will set the learner well on his way to the mastery of a subject of great importance. The book has a very complete and usable index.

For those teachers who agree entirely with the author's beliefs about the use of the grammar, there is probably no better book than this, supplemented as indicated above. Whether it is necessary or advisable to require the first-year student to use a grammar is a question regarding which opinions may differ. The matter of expense need not, perhaps, be considered very much, since a grammar must be bought sometime, if not in the first year, by those who continue the study of Latin. But the matter of the physical burden is really a serious one. Conditions in many schools compel that nearly all studying be done at home. This means that all books in use must be carried to school and back again every day. Furthermore, in some of these schools all books must be carried about wherever the student goes during the day. In such cases the addition of a pound to the weight of the load which the boy, or especially the girl, of twelve or thirteen must shoulder is a thing of importance. This may, perhaps, be an argument in favor of having the edition of Caesar contain its own grammar. Still, the students in Caesar are a year older than those in first-year classes, and for the proper study of syntax the complete grammar is imperatively necessary. But it is not imperatively necessary for the mastery of the simple reflections of the first year, and it is at least debatable whether the need of constantly referring to another book for these is not a hindrance rather than a profit. Yet few would disagree with the author in his belief that the 'grammar habit' should be established early, and in the opinion of the writer of this review the systematic study of the grammar should begin with the reading of the first Latin author.

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The Seven against Thebes of Aeschylus. Edited by T. G. Tucker, University of Melbourne. Cambridge, England: at the University Press (1908).

This edition contains a preface and introduction; then the text on the left hand page with a prose translation on the right. Underneath these, running across both pages, is the Critical Apparatus. Below, in two columns on each page, is a very full commentary. At the end are appendices and indices. The whole plan, even the type and every-

thing except the binding, are exactly as in the case of Jebb's Sophocles, with the meters omitted. It is needless to remark on the elegance of the volume.

In the preface (4 pp.) are stated with acumen the qualifications necessary for a competent interpreter of a play of Aeschylus, and the author modestly claims "a fair degree" of the needful preparation. He here takes occasion also to discuss briefly Wecklein's aspersions on his "Geschmach". Since *de gustibus non est disputandum*, the reviewer takes no part in this controversy.

The introduction (50 pp.), beginning with the founding or, rather, the origin of Thebes, narrates and ably discusses practically everything that can shed light on the play. The topics discussed are: (a) Primitive Thebes, Argos and the Theban Sagas; (b) Cadmus, the Labdacidae and the Sep-tem; (c) Cadmea and the Seven Gates of Thebes; (d) The Play of Aeschylus; (e) The Text (with an account of the Mss. and Scholia). Section D on the play is specially important, and merits close study; but a brief summary of it would be useless.

Prefixed to the text are the *ὑπόθεσις* and the list of the *δράματος πρόσωπα*, both annotated, and a technical analysis of the play.

The translation we Americans should call a paraphrase and a very free paraphrase. This fact will be commended by all who are familiar with Aeschylus and the impossibility of turning his speech literally into English. Take, for instance, 335-357 *βλαχαὶ δ' αἱματέσσαι τῶν ἐπιμαστιδίων ἀρτιτρεφεῖς βρέμονται*. This is rendered 'Bloodstained the mothers of newborn babes cry plaintively for their sucklings'. Anything approximating a literal translation of this passage would be almost sure to suggest the *οἰμωγὰς . . . ὀμφαλοέσσας* of Aristophanes. The paraphrase or translation everywhere shows a thorough comprehension of the text and a delicate appreciation of its highly poetic coloring, along with the rare faculty of reproducing such coloring in English. One difficulty, however, in such a case is inevitable. If one were to compose in English a prose work in the style of this translation, such a work would be regarded as stilted and bombastic. But, of course, the reader has constantly the consciousness that he is reading a prose translation of poetry, which fact does much to relieve the difficulty named. Still one could almost wish that the author had versified his translation or, at least, thrown it into rhythmical prose, as in fact, whether consciously or not, he has done in many places.

The poetic taste just mentioned has greatly aided the editor in constituting his text. This text may be called in the main conservative; but some fifty-five emendations of the editor have been introduced. Of these a few are convincing, most are plausible, and none impossible. Rarely, if ever, is an emenda-